

THE
HISTORY
OF THE
ABDICATION

OF
VICTOR AMEDEUS II,
Late King of *Sardinia*,

With His
Confinement in the Castle of *Rivole*;

Shewing the real Motives, which induc'd
that *Prince* to resign the *Crown* in Favour
of his *Son* CHARLES EMANUEL the present
King: As also how he came to repent of
his *Resignation*, with the secret Reasons that
urg'd him to attempt his *Restauration*.

In a LETTER from the Marquis de T***
a *Picmontois*, now at the Court of *Poland*;
To the Count de C***** in *London*.

— Quod his diebus nostris evenit verè insigne &
memorable, penè incredibile opus est; tamen consi-
derando gravissima Regis peccata, & specialem Dei
OMNIPOTENTIS in hac re PROVIDENTIAM, & quam
inuitato & mirabili modo justissimam voluntatem
SUAM erga ipsum impleverit; omnino & firmiter
credo. *Sexti quinti Pont. Max. De Henrici tertii*
morte, Sermo. Romæ in Consistorio Patrum habitus,
11 Septembris, 1589.

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S I R,



THE particular Friendship I formerly profess'd you, was, I must own, in some manner lessen'd, when forc'd to leave my Native Country, my Relations and Friends, in order to embrace the generous Offers made me by King *Augustus*, after my late *Sovereign* the King of *Sardinia*, at my Return from * *England*, had divested me of all I possess'd. For, as at that time you were in Favour with your *Prince*, and I utterly disgrac'd; I consider'd you as a *Man*, who had forsaken me to gratify your *Master's* violent Inclinations; as it is generally the way amongst *Courtiers* on the like Occasion.

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With

* The Marquis de T — was twice sent over to *England* with the Character of *Envoy* to that *Court*, during the Reign of King *Victor*.

With this Notion I thought it not proper to take my Leave of you, at my departing from *Turin*; but being since inform'd of the Misfortunes you have labour'd under, for having endeavour'd to deliver our *Nation* from the *Tyranny* of the *Clergy*, and maintain the *Rights* of your *Sovereign* against the Usurpations of the *Church*: I am now intirely reclaim'd from the prejudic'd Opinion I had then conceiv'd of you, and convinc'd the evil *Practices* of that *Court* have not been able to produce any Alteration in your *Morals*, nor alienate that *Zeal*, which you ever shew'd for the *Publick Good*.

As we have been *Fellow Sufferers* under the same Oppression, we ought the more to sympathize in Affection to each other. My Disgrace sprung from too great an Application to the Service of a *Prince*, who not supplying me with a Maintainance fuitable to the *Character* he had conferr'd on me, put me under the Necessity of spending the greatest Part of my own Estate, with which he then seem'd to be well pleas'd: But as soon as his Turn was serv'd, and he had no farther Occasion for me, tho' at the same time he knew himself oblig'd in Honour and Justice to reward my Loyalty and long Services; then, I say, he upbraided me with Extravagance and Prodigality, and instead of making me some
Amends

Amends for the considerable Losses I had sustain'd in promoting his Advantage, he dispossest me of all I was Master of, by a general *Reduction* of the Fiefs and *Crown Lands*, which in former Times had been alienated by his *Predecessors* in Favour of their *Subjects*, either for ready Money, or by a voluntary Grant in Consideration and Acknowledgment of some singular Service they had done their * *Sovereigns*; by which Act of *Injustice* he reduc'd me to the utmost Necessity; which was so much the greater, that neither my Friends nor Relations dared to offer me the least Assistance, for Fear of incurring his Displeasure and Indignation.

Your Fate, Sir, as I am told, has had the same Vicissitude with mine. For, after having made your best Efforts to serve your *Prince*, whilst he was at Variance with the *Pope*, and that he had put in Practice those excellent *Instructions*, which you had laid before him in † *Writing* for the Limitation of the exorbitant Power of the *Clergy* in his Dominions;

* The King of *Sardinia* caus'd this *Reduction* to be made the Year after the Invasion of the *Spaniards* in *Sicily*, in order to defray himself of the large Sums of Money, which he had supply'd the *Imperialists* with, to engage them to act on that Occasion; by which *Reduction* he beggar'd the major Part of his Nobility.

† The Count de C——, to whom this Letter was wrote, being in *London* in the Year 1728, sent a Treatise

minions; he reconcil'd himself to the Court of *Rome*, and deliver'd you up a *Sacrifice* to the implacable *Hatred* of the Priests. Happy were you to have timely discover'd his evil Intentions, and avoided your fatal and inevitable Ruin, then so near at Hand, by taking a Sanctuary in *England*! a Nation to whose Merit I am no Stranger, and who has ever glory'd in protecting those, who, oppress'd by *Tyranny*, have endeavour'd to shake off the *Yoke*.

Now, Sir, as you have had the good Fortune to escape the Persecutions of your *Tyrants*, I shall acquaint you with some Particulars, by which you will see in what Manner *Providence* has thought fit to punish the *Author* of

to King *Victor*, intitled, *Discours Historiques & Politiques*, which he had compos'd by that Prince's Order; and in the last Discourse he propos'd 12 Articles to the King, who caus'd six of them to be put in Execution before he abdicated the *Crown*, viz. 1. That the Schools of the *Jesuites* and other *Clergymen* should be suppress'd. 2. That his Subjects should make no *Free Gifts* to the Churches. 3. That all the Ecclesiastical *Funds* might be liable to the *Taxes* and *Duties* of the Government, upon the same Footing with his other *Subjects*. 4. That the *Churches*, for the Future, should not be *Sanctuaries* for *Criminals*. 5. That the *Inquisition* should be divested of its *Tyrannical Power*, by appointing a secular *Judge* to be present at the Trials, and that all *Sentences* whatsoever should be void without his *Vote*: And the 6th was, That the *King* should take Possession of all the *Lands* and *Fiefs* in his Dominions belonging to the *Pope*; such as *Lombardore*, *Montafia*, *Cortanze*, *Montanaro*, &c. which being executed accordingly, is the Subject of the great Difference at this Time between the Courts of *Turin* and *Rome*.

of your *Unhappiness*. I do not in the least doubt but you have been inform'd of King *Victor's Abdication*, and of the unwarrantable Measures he was pursuing to be repossess'd of the *Crown*, being an Affair that has made too much Noise in *Europe*, for you not to have heard of it. But as the secret Springs from which this Part of his *History* arose, may'nt possibly have reach'd your Knowledge, I propose here to give you an Account of them, that it may be a Comfort to you, when you consider that all *Crimes*, at a proper Season, meet with their just *Punishment*; and that you may admire, at the same time, how the Justice and Wisdom of the *Eternal Being* has manifested itself in making that imperious *Prince* sensible, that he was nothing more than a wretched *Mortal*, who, notwithstanding his *Arbitrary Power*, was not able to screen himself from those *Judgments*, which *God*, at his Will and Pleasure, can inflict without Distinction both on the proud *Monarch* and the humble *Shepherd*.

You must therefore know, that the *Emperor* having resolv'd to oppose *Don Carlos's Expedition*, and prevent the six thousand *Spaniards* from marching into *Italy*, sent a considerable Number of Forces into the Territories of *Tuscany* and *Parma*, and having engag'd the *Grand Duke* in his Interest, he was of Opinion

nion that it wou'd be a great Advantage to him, could he likewise bring over the King of *Sardinia* into his Scheme. To this Purpose *His Imperial Majesty* gave Directions to the Governor of *Milan* to make the following Proposals to this Prince, viz. That if he wou'd enter into his Party, and supply him in Case of Necessity with twelve thousand Men, that is, eight thousand Foot and four thousand Horse, to act in Concert with the *Germans*; he would constitute him and his Heirs Governors for ever of the Dutchy of *Milan*, and wou'd immediately remit him three hundred thousand *Philippi*, ‡ that he might be able to keep that Body of Men ready to march upon the first Notice. King *Victor* accepted the Proposal, and the *Emperor* caus'd the said Sum of Money to be pay'd to him without Delay; upon Condition that he should return it to him, in case there were no Occasion to send those twelve thousand Men into the Field: Which Treaty was concluded and sign'd at *Milan* by the *Imperial* and *Sardinian* Ministers in the Month of *June*, 1730.

Some Time after the King of *Spain's* Envoy, who was then at *Genoua*, took a Journey incognito to the Court of *Turin*, and in a private Audience he had with the King of *Sardinia*,
he

‡ A *Philippo* is a Piece of Money, worth about four Shillings and eight Pence Sterling.

he offer'd this *Prince* in the Name of the King his *Master*, the Town of *Novara* with all the Territories adjacent and beyond the River *Tesino*, which are now Part of the Dutchy of *Milan*, and belonging to the *Emperor*; with this Condition, that he wou'd join with him, to force the *Imperialists* out of *Italy*, in case they should oppose *Don Carlos* in the peaceable Possession of the Dutchy of *Parma*.

King *Victor* having consider'd that this Proposal on the Part of *Spain* was more agreeable to his Interest than that, which the *Emperor* had made him; being then of Opinion that *England*, *France*, and *Spain* had jointly resolv'd to oblige the *Germans* to leave *Italy*, he readily comply'd with it, and promis'd the *Spanish* Minister to assist the *Infant* to the utmost of his Power, against the *Imperial* Forces.

However, notwithstanding all the Precautions this *Prince* had taken to conceal this last Alliance, he cou'd not keep it so secret, but that the *Emperor's* Emissaries suspected some underhand Dealing, and gave Notice of it to their *Master*: Who immediately sent to the Governor of *Milan* with Orders, that he should threaten this *Prince* with utter Destruction, in case he should deceive him. Whereupon the King of *Sardinia* excus'd himself as well as he was able, byab solutely denying the *Fact*: But

his *Minister* at the Court of *Vienna* having inform'd him that the *Emperor's* Privy-Council seem'd dispos'd to enter into the Measures of the Allies of *Sevil*, he was then seiz'd with Fear and Confusion; concluding that shou'd such a Thing happen, those two *Powers* wou'd inevitably fall upon him, and punish his Proceeding in such a Manner, as wou'd prove to his entire Shame and Disadvantage.

Thus King *Victor* being perplex'd with various Thoughts, and not knowing how to extricate himself out of so wrong a *Step*, resolv'd at last to renounce the *Crown*, till the Affairs then depending had taken another Turn; by which means he propos'd to shelter himself from the approaching *Storm*, and by a feigned *Abdication*, silence those who might exclaim against him, for having broke off the Engagements he had enter'd into not long before.

This artful Contrivance was indeed contrary to the Maxims of *Machiavel*, which this *Prince* had till then strictly observ'd; but he flatter'd himself with succeeding in his *Project*, relying wholly on his *Son's* blind Submission to his Will, and on the Affection of his Subjects; tho' he was very much mistaken in his Notion, as we shall soon see. The first Thing he propos'd to himself, was to prepare his *Son* by Degrees for this great Change in Government,
and

and take some time to dive into the young *Prince's* Sentiments. To this End, he constantly for the Space of two Months held private Conferences with him before he put his *Design* in Execution, and at last broke the Affair to him in the following Words:

“ *My dearest Son*, the great Oppression I now
 “ lie under, does not proceed so much from
 “ the unavoidable Infirmities of Old Age, as
 “ from the weighty Cares of *Government*;
 “ therefore I have a strong Inclination to re-
 “ tire some Time from *Court*, in order to give
 “ a Recess to my Mind, and intrust you with
 “ the *Administration* of Affairs. I am sensible
 “ the *Task* is very laborious, and greatly fear,
 “ you are not able at your Years to manage so
 “ difficult an Undertaking; specially consider-
 “ ing the small Experience you have in Matters
 “ of *State*: For you well know I never let you
 “ into the *Mysteries of Politicks*, † nor trusted
 “ any one with the Helm of my *Kingdom*. I
 “ alone have govern’d my *Subjects* till now,
 “ without the Assistance of any *Minister*.
 “ This is an *Art* you cannot acquire but by a
 “ long and continual Practice: For which rea-
 “ son you will be under the absolute Necessity
 “ of having a *Mentor* near you to direct your
 B 2 “ Actions

† Arcana Imperii.

“ Actions in the Infancy of your *Reign*, and
 “ enable you to maintain and improve that
 “ *Power*, with which I now intend to invest
 “ you: But as it is dangerous for a *Prince*, to
 “ place his whole Confidence in one single
 “ *Man* amongst his *Subjects*; I have chosen to
 “ be myself your *Director*, till you have at-
 “ tain’d a sufficient Capacity to govern by
 “ yourself. Upon these Conditions I have
 “ resolv’d to renounce the *Crown* in your Fa-
 “ vour: Therefore consider well how far they
 “ may be agreeable to you.

The Prince of *Piemont*, in Answer to the
 King’s Proposal, told him in a respectful Man-
 ner; “ That his *Majesty* might act according
 “ to his own Pleasure, and assure himself,
 “ that he would be obedient and faithful to
 “ him as long as he liv’d: That whether his
 “ *Majesty* divested himself of the Royal *Au-*
 “ *thority*, or continued on the *Throne*, he
 “ wou’d make it his inviolable Duty to obey
 “ all his Commands: In a Word, he pro-
 “ mis’d to pay him the Respect due to a *Father*,
 “ and the Submission he ow’d to a *Sovereign*,
 “ whatever Change might come to pass.
 This Declaration often repeated by a young
Prince, who as yet was not skill’d in Dissimula-
 tion, made so pleasing an Impression on the
Old King, that he resolv’d no longer to suspend
 the

the Execution of a Design which he thought would intirely tend to his future Peace and Glory.

Accordingly, on the 2d of *September*, 1730, he summon'd the Princes of the *Blood*, the Knights of the *Annonciata*, the Ministers and Secretaries of *State*, as also the Archbishop of *Turin*, the High *Chancellor*, the first *Presidents*, the Generals of the *Army*, and all those who held the most conspicuous Employments at *Court*, to attend him on the next Day at Three in the Afternoon at the Castle of *Rivole*. Here the *King*, having order'd his Council to meet at the appointed Hour, first declar'd to them, " That he made a general *Abdication* of
 " his *Crown*, and all his *Dominions*, in Behalf
 " of his *Son Charles-Emanuel Prince of Piemont*. Then the Marquis *Del Borgo*, Secretary of *State*, read aloud the Act of *Resignation*; at the Conclusion of which, his *Majesty* made a pathetick *Speech* to this numerous *Assembly*, the most material Part of it being as follows:

" The endless Cares and Fatigues we have
 " constantly undergone during a *Reign* of fifty
 " Years, without mentioning the Infirmities that
 " generally attend the advanc'd Years, to which
 " we are now come, were more than sufficient
 " Motives to render the Weight of Govern-
 " ment too grievous and burthensome to us.

" Besides,

“ Besides, as we are now proceeding towards
 “ our *End*, and begin to look upon *Death* as a
 “ Fate, to which *Sovereigns* and *Subjects* must
 “ equally submit, we think ourselves oblig’d, in
 “ Conscience, to fix some Interval betwixt the
 “ *Throne* and the *Grave*. These Motives, we
 “ say, were powerful enough to induce us to
 “ the Resolution we have taken; and so
 “ much the more, as they seem to be se-
 “ conded by the Hand of *Providence*, who
 “ hath given us a *Son* worthy of being our
 “ *Successor*, and qualify’d for the Government
 “ of our *Kingdom*, being endow’d with all
 “ those Accomplishments as are becoming a
 “ good *Prince*.

“ We are therefore determin’d, without any
 “ farther Deliberation, to resign to him our
 “ supreme Authority over all our *Dominions*,
 “ by a solemn Act sign’d this Day, with our
 “ own Hand: Being resolv’d to pass the Re-
 “ mainder of our Life in Peace, free from
 “ all *Publick* Affairs: And we entreat you to
 “ serve and obey the King, our *well-beloved*
 “ *Son*, with the same Affection and Loyalty
 “ which we ever experienc’d in you; assu-
 “ ring you at the same time, that we have
 “ earnestly recommended you to his Royal
 “ Protection, &c.

Upon

Upon his *Abdication* he reserv'd to himself a yearly *Income* of Fifty Thousand * *Crowns*, and appointed only such of his Officers and Servants to attend him, as were absolutely necessary. He likewise declar'd, that he had made Choice of the Castle of *Chambery* for his Retirement; for which Place he set out a few Days after, being then in the 64th Year of his Age, and a Widower from the 26th of *August*, 1728.

King *Victor*, at his departing from *Piemont*, had left behind him a favourite *Mistress* nam'd the *Countess of St. Sebastien*; and as this *Lady* makes one of the chief Subjects of his *History*, it will not be improper to give you a just Idea of her *Person*: For, tho' you have been acquainted with her many Years, and that you are even related to her, I am confident there are some things I can inform you of concerning her, which I believe have escap'd your Knowledge.

Her Maiden Name, as you know, was *Mademoiselle de Cumiane*; and being of a noble Extraction, she was appointed, at the Age of Sixteen, one of the *Maids of Honour* to † *Madame Royal*,

* The *Piemontois Crown* is worth four Shillings *Sterl.*

† This *Princess* was educated at the Court of *France*, being *Daughter* of the Duke of *Nemours*, who was kill'd in a *Duel* by the Duke of *Beaufort*: Upon which Account *Lewis XIV.* made a severe Law, by which *Duels* are expressly prohibited upon Pain of *Death*.

Royal, Mother to King *Victor*. This Prince, who was then about thirty Years old, took more Delight in making his Addresses to the *Fair*, who were numerous at his Mother's Court, than conversing with his *Ministers* upon tedious and difficult Matters of *State*; and what made this Kind of Life the more pleasing to him, was, that this *Princess*, being a *Lady* of the greatest Delicacy, and no Enemy to Gallantry, would admit none to be *Maids* or *Ladies* of Honour, but such as excelled all others in *Beauty*. Thus the *Sovereign* and the young *Noblemen* of his Court were constantly supply'd with charming *Objects*, and could easily find new Pleasures in the Variety of them, without ever being cloy'd.

Our *Prince* having therefore fix'd his Inclinations on *Mademoiselle de Cumiane*, over-loaded her with *uncommon* Favours, which in a short Time distinguish'd her from the rest of the young *Ladies* her Companions, by a strange Alteration in her *Shape*. In order to repair a Mischance of this Nature, *Madame Royal*, who was as faithful a *Confident* as a good Mother to her Son, immediately oblig'd the *Count of St. Sebastien*, her *Premier Ecuyer*, to marry her; who thought himself highly dignified, by having it in his Power to ally his *Blood* with that of his *King*.

moderately ambitious, she instantly apply'd to *Father Andormiglia* Abbot of the Order of the *Fezillans*, Confessor in Ordinary to King *Victor* ; and *Dr. Boggio* Curate of *St. John's*, one of the Directors of his *Conscience* : To these two Clergymen she represented ; “ that the *King* “ had often promis'd to marry her privately “ since the Death of his late *Queen*, to retrieve “ her blasted Reputation and the Injury done “ to her *Family* : That as he had abdicated “ the Crown, he ought no longer to defer the “ Performance of his Promise ; whereas, being now upon the Footing of a *Private Person*, he might without the least Impediment “ fulfil the Duty of a *Christian* and a *Man of Honour*.

With this she assur'd these two *trusty Friends*, “ That, in case she cou'd prevail on “ this *Prince*, to make her his *Consort*, she “ wou'd strenuously sollicit him in their *Favour*, that by his great Interest they might be “ rais'd to the highest Dignities in the *Church*. These fine Words, together with the Affability and deluding Address of the *Countess*, induced this *Monk* and *Priest* to use their utmost Endeavours with the *King*, to bring this Affair to a Conclusion ; and indeed they found it no difficult Matter to succeed in their Undertaking : For the *King* himself was very desirous

firous to have a *Female* Companion with him in his *Solitude*, particularly a *Lady* of her *known* Abilities, to whom he cou'd safely reveal his most secret *Thoughts*. Accordingly he sent for her, and married her in a publick Manner; then having desired the young *King* his *Son* to supply him with a hundred thousand *Crowns*, he made a present of that Sum to the *Countess*, in order to be laid out in the Purchase of a *Marquesat* for the *Children* of her former Marriage, and she bought that of *Spigno*, which Title she assum'd.

As King *Victor* seem'd well pleas'd with his Retirement for the first four Months; the *Marchioness* of *Spigno*, who imploy'd all her *Arts* to render herself conformable to the Humour of her *Spouse*, affected likewise to be so. But soon after, perceiving this *Prince* began to shew a Dislike to his Habitation, and often talk'd of making some Repairs to the Building, she endeavour'd as much as possible to dissuade him from such a Design; representing that it would be of no Advantage to lay out *Money* upon an Old *Castle*, which was falling to ruin on all Sides, and that it were needless to make any thing beautiful or convenient there, whilst he had so many fine *Palaces* in *Piemont* to chuse for his Residence, and specially the *Cli-*

mate of that Country being more beneficial to his Health than that of *Savoy*.

With Arguments of this Kind, the cunning *Marchioness* was striving to give her *Husband* an Aversion for *Chambery*, and thereby inspire him with a Longing to return into his Native Country : But in this Point she only crowded his Head with superfluous Thoughts, without being able to bring him to a Determination, in as much as he was resolv'd to live some time distant from *Court*, the better to conceal his private Schemes. The *Marchioness* was induced by other Reasons than that of her *Prince's* Health, to entreat him so earnestly to return into *Piemont* ; but her Intention was not to reveal them, till she had first discover'd, whether or no they might be acceptable to him.

To this End, she put all her winning Fondness in practice to insinuate herself the more in her *Spouse's* good Graces ; and she prov'd so successful, that at last this *Prince* told her one Day, that she might be easy, for in a short Time he would gratify her Desires ; his Intention not being to pass the Remainder of his Days at *Chambery*, tho' he had made his *Son* believe it, when he resign'd the Crown to him.

After

After so sincere a Declaration, the *Marchioness* was of Opinion, that she might without much Difficulty dive into the true Cause of the *Abdication*, to which she, till then, was a Stranger. So from that Time this artful and deluding *Woman* set all Engines to work, in order to find out her old *Prince's* Sentiments. She knew, by long Experience, the proper Seasons, when a *Woman* could obtain almost every thing of a *Man*, which having well improv'd, her *Husband* inform'd her that his Resolution was to re-assume the *Crown* within the Space of two Years. "Two Years! reply'd the "*Marchioness* in Raptures of Joy: Why will "you defer it so long?

Upon which the *Prince* disclos'd to her the Motives of his *Abdication*, as also those he had for suspending his *Re-accession* to the *Throne*, till the Differences then in Question between the *Emperor* and the King of *Spain* on Account of the Dutchies of *Parma* and *Tuscany* were ended, either by a *Peace* or an open *War*: By reason, that before those Affairs were concluded, he could not come off of his Engagements with Honour and Advantage. For had he sided with the *Allies* of the Treaty of *Seville* before they had been able to march with a potent *Army* into *Italy*, he might easily be oppress'd by the *Germans*; and on the
other

other Hand, if he had declar'd himself for the *Emperor* against the *Allies*, these undoubtedly would have fallen upon him in a most furious Manner, had they gain'd Ground, as in all Probability they would, being impossible that the *Emperor*, jointly with him, cou'd oppose four such formidable *Powers*, as *England*, *France*, *Spain*, and *Holland*. So, that having unfortunately enter'd into a secret Alliance both with the *Emperor* and the King of *Spain* at the same Time, he cou'd not think on a more ready Expedient to bring himself out of this *Labyrinth*, than that of abdicating the *Crown*, and persuading his *Son* not to espouse either one Side or the other, till all these Divisions were accommodated, which the young *King* punctually observ'd.

The *Marchioness* commended this *Prince's* Conduct herein, and agreed with him to wait at *Chambery* the Event of this important Affair. However, during their Residence in *Savoy*, this haughty *Woman* advis'd King *Victor* to exercise from time to time the supreme Authority, he had till then over his *Son* and *Ministers*, that he might reserve the Possession of it to himself; with which he willingly comply'd. For he commanded the young *King* to attend him at *Chambery*, to take his Advice
upon

upon a Matter of great Moment ; and accordingly the *King* pay'd the same Obedience to his *Father*, as if he himself were no more than his *Vassal*. He likewise summon'd the Ministers of *State* and several of the chief Officers of the *Crown* to come to him, and in the like Manner they shew'd as great a Submission to his Commands, as tho' he were still their lawful *Sovereign*.

In the Beginning of *August*, 1731, King *Victor* being inform'd that the *Emperor* had at last agreed, that *Don Carlos* should enter *Italy* with Six Thousand *Spaniards*, acquainted the *Marchioness* his Wife with this Piece of News, which was exceedingly pleasing to her, because she then saw herself in a Condition to execute the Project she had fram'd a long Time before. To this Purpose she took a convenient Opportunity of being private with the Prince in his *Closet*, where she represented ;
 “ That it was then Time for him to return
 “ into *Piemont* in order to be reinstated, his
 “ *Son* and *Subjects* being as yet submissive to
 “ him ; For that a farther Delay in so tick-
 “ lish a Point might prove *fatal* to him, espe-
 “ cially when once the *Emperor* and *Don Carlos*
 “ had acknowledg'd his *Son* for King of *Sar-*
 “ *dinia* : That he ought to consider, should
 “ the young *Prince* continue any longer on
 “ the

“ the Throne, he might in the End be allu-
 “ red by the Charms of governing, and possi-
 “ bly would not be willing, when called up-
 “ on, to part with the *Power* he had vested in
 “ him.

This insinuating Speech of the *Marchioness*
 made a lively Impression on King *Victor*, who at
 this time was more than ever *jealous* of his *Autho-
 rity*, tho' he had in all outward Appearance re-
 sign'd it to his *Son*. He therefore took a sud-
 den Resolution to come back into *Piemont*,
 which having communicated by an *Express*
 to the young *King*, he immediately ordered
 the Castle of *Moncalieri* to be made ready for
 his *Father's* Reception.

Thus King *Victor* and the *Marchioness* set out
 from *Chambery* at the latter End of *August*,
 and being arrived at the Castle appointed,
 his *Son*, attended by the chief Officers of his
Court, went to compliment him upon his hap-
 py Return: The Archbishop of *Turin* with
 the Magistrates of that *City* follow'd the *King's*
Example; even the *Queen* herself accompany'd
 with several *Ladies* of the first Rank pay'd a
 Visit to the *Marchioness* of *Spigno*, to whom she
 express'd the greatest Marks of Esteem and
 Friendship. In short, King *Victor* and his *Con-
 sort* from that time were treated in as respectful
 a Manner,

a Manner, as tho' they had been the *Sovereigns* of the Country.

This old *Prince*, in the frequent Conferences he held with the Ministers of *State* and *Governours* of *Turin* and the *Citadel*, us'd his utmost *Arts* to discover their real Sentiments with regard to their Affection and Loyalty towards him, and as these *Noblemen* had on all Occasions shew'd the highest Veneration for his *Person*; he then began to flatter himself with being able to ascend the *Throne*, without fearing the least Opposition on the Part either of his *Son*, or his *Ministers*; and this chiefly grounded on the submissive Manner, in which the young *King* always behav'd to him. But his Presumption was too great, for his Crimes were beyond Measure; and the *eternal Decree* of his Punishment was then at a *Period*; as you will see by what follows.

On the 28th of *September*, 1731, at the Hour of Ten that Evening, King *Victor*, being in Company with the *Marchioness* only, sent an Order to the *Marquess Del Borgo* immediately to attend him. This *Minister*, not suspecting in the least upon what Account the old *Prince* sent for him, obey'd his Commands, as he had often done before; and being come to *Moncalieri*, as soon as he appear'd in the Presence of King *Victor*, this *Prince* said to him: "*Del*

D

Borgo,

“ *Borgo*, I sent for you to desire your Com-
 “ pany at Supper with me and the *Marchi-*
 “ *ones*, and hope your agreeable Conversa-
 “ tion will help to divert her from the *Va-*
 “ *pours*, which have grievously incommoded
 “ her all this Day; and after Supper I shall
 “ impart an Affair to you, which I dare say
 “ will not displease you. The *Marquess*
 upon this return’d *his Majesty* thanks for so
 great an Honour, and the Table being ser-
 ved, they sat down to Supper, during
 which King *Victor* seem’d very chearful,
 and entertain’d this *Minister* after a gallant
 Manner.

Supper being over, and the *Prince* having
 order’d his Attendants to withdraw, spoke
 to him in the following Words: “ It is an
 “ exceeding Pleasure to me, to see that the
 “ *King* my Son hath continued in their
 “ Employments those, to whom I had con-
 “ fer’d them: For I am certain he never
 “ cou’d have chosen one so loyal and active
 “ as you are, or so experienced in the
 “ weighty matters of *State*. Nor do I doubt
 “ but you are well inform’d that I myself
 “ expressly charg’d him to employ both at
 “ home and abroad those very *Ministers*, whom
 “ I had appointed for the management of
 “ Affairs during my *Reign*. I therefore
 “ wholly

“ wholly rely on your Affection, and expect that out of Duty and Gratitude you will stedfastly adhere to the *Person*, who was the *Author* of your *Fortune*.

To this, the *Marquess* reply'd; “ That *his Majesty* might as intirely depend on the Submission and Zeal of all the young *King's* Ministers and Officers, as tho' he had never abdicated the *Crown*; and cou'd Answer, that for himself he wou'd seek all Opportunities of giving *his Majesty* the strongest Proofs of his sincere and faithful Devotion. Hereupon King *Victor* reassuming that State and Gravity, which as *Sovereign* he was us'd to take upon him, when ever he talk'd to his *Ministers*, said to him :

“ We are, *Del Borgo*, so sensible of your being intirely devoted to our Service, that we ever distinguish'd you from all our other *Ministers*, by our singular Goodness towards you, and by always chusing to intrust you preferably to any other with our important Negotiations; as we now do, by declaring our Intentions to you. A Year is now past since we resigned the *Crown* to our well beloved Son *Charles Emanuel*, for the Reasons alledg'd by us at *Rivole* on the Day of our *Abdication*; as

“ also to see in what Manner he wou’d
 “ govern his *Subjects*, that we might be able
 “ to assist him with our *Paternal* Instructi-
 “ ons during our Life, and be assured that
 “ we shou’d leave a *Prince* on the *Throne*
 “ worthy of succeeding us after our *Decease*.
 “ However, tho’ we are well pleas’d with
 “ his *Administration*, we think it neverthe-
 “ less our indispensable Duty, for the Good
 “ of the *State* in general, to take the *Govern-*
 “ *ment* again into our own Hands. For in
 “ all appearance there will strange Revoluti-
 “ ons happen in *Italy* before it be long,
 “ which may prove very prejudicial not
 “ only to our *Son*, but likewise to our *dear-*
 “ *est Subjects*, were they to be govern’d by a
 “ young *Prince*, who has not yet attain’d the
 “ Knowledge of those political *Arts* and
 “ *Mysteries of State*, which are the sole Sup-
 “ port of a Sovereign’s *Power*. Therefore,
 “ *Marquess*, we first command you to re-
 “ turn unto us the *Act* of our *Abdication*,
 “ and then to make our Will known to our
 “ *Son* and his *Ministers*, that to-morrow
 “ without fail we may be restor’d to our
 “ supreme *Authority*, for such is our Royal
 “ Pleasure.

The *Minister* was Thunder-struck at this
 unexpected Declaration, not knowing how

to get off of so hard and dangerous a Task: For on the one Hand, had he given an absolute Refusal to a fiery *Prince*, such as was King *Victor*, who in all his Life-time never cou'd bear the least Contradiction, he might have easily exasperated him to a Degree, as he himself wou'd have fallen a *Victim* to his immoderate Anger; and on the other Hand, had the *Marquess* comply'd with this *Prince's* Demand, he wou'd have declar'd himself at once a *Rebel* to his lawful *King*, and consequently guilty of *High Treason*.

In so intricate a Case, this artful *Minister* thinking to avoid the Danger that threaten'd him, by excusing himself in a respectful and fawning Manner, told King *Victor*, That he humbly beg'd of him to consider, that it was not in his Power to give him up his *Act* of *Abdication*, without first obtaining the King of *Sardinia's* Consent, by Reason that he had sworn *Allegiance* to him at his Accession to the *Throne*, *His Majesty* being present. Here the *Prince*, in an outrageous Passion, interrupted the *Marquess*, saying, “ *Del Borgo*, Do you acknowledge
 “ any other *Sovereign* but me? To whom
 “ did you first swear *Allegiance*? either to
 “ me or to my *Son*? Are you not an un-
 “ grateful and perfidious *Traytor*, to one
 “ who

“ who has rais’d you to the high *Station* you
 “ now are in, and to whom you not long
 “ since protested to be for ever submissive?
 “ But I shall soon teach you to know your
 “ Duty, unless you immediately obey my
 “ Commands. The *Minister* being terrify’d at this Speech, thus address’d the
King :

“ *SIR*, said he, If your *Majesty* will do
 “ me the Favour to hear me, you will find
 “ I am not the Man you take me to be.
 “ ’Tis true, that by your *Majesty’s* positive
 “ Order I have taken an Oath of Allegiance
 “ to the *King* your *Son* ; tho’ I ever look’d
 “ upon you as my lawful *Sovereign*, and
 “ to convince you, *Sir*, of my dutiful Sentiments and Respect, I will bring you to-morrow Morning your *Act of Abdication*, without taking the least Notice of it to any one : But at the same time I earnestly entreat your *Majesty* to justify my Conduct with the *King* your *Son*.” This Reply pacify’d, in some Measure, the Old *King* ; who having insisted on this *Minister’s* repeated Assurances, that he would make good his Promise to him ; at last gave him Leave to retire.

The

The *Marquess del Borgo* was no sooner gone, when the *Prince*, reflecting on what was past, expressed an extraordinary Uneasiness, for having intrusted him with his Intentions. He then began to suspect all his *Son's Ministers*, and fear they wou'd oppose his Designs: He was toss'd betwixt Hope and Despair. At one Instant he flatter'd himself with Success, especially when he call'd to Mind his *Son's* meek and humble Disposition to obey his Will and Pleasure: But then again, he was desperately perplex'd with the Apprehension, that the young *King*, after having tasted the Sweets of *supreme Power* and *Liberty*, wou'd no longer submit to a *Father*, whose Severity and Aversion to the Pleasures of Life was so insupportable to *Youth*. These various Reflections, I say, cast him into so deep a Sorrow, that he knew not what Course to take; seeing himself without either Power or Friends, abandon'd to his wretched Destiny. Even the *Marchioness* his *Consort*, who made it her constant Care in his Retirement to comfort him, and divert his Troubles with her fond and endearing Conversation, was then forced to be silent for fear of aggravating him, and drawing his Anger upon herself.

Thus

Thus desolate and thoughtful he walk'd about his *Chamber* sighing, and from time to time starting out into furious Emotions, which declar'd the Anguish of his Mind. In this sad Condition he continu'd till about Midnight; when suddenly addressing the *Marchioness*, as tho' he were just awak'd out of a *Dream*: 'Tis done, said he, I have taken my Resolution: Order a *Horse* to be immediately got ready; which the *Marchioness* having obey'd with Reluctancy, not daring to propose the least Question to him: He set out, attended by one *Valet de Chambre* only, and rode directly to a Gate of the *Citadel* of *Turin*, call'd *La Porta di Soccorso*, requiring Admittance into the Place.

With this an Officer, who was then upon Duty, went in all Haste to acquaint the *Baron de St. Remy*, Governor of the *Citadel*, that King *Victor* desir'd to be let in. The *Baron* was very much surpriz'd, and cou'd scarcely believe, this *Prince* was there at so untimely an Hour: However, being resolv'd at once to know the Truth, he went himself, and accordingly finding it was King *Victor*, who waited for him with great Impatience: He ask'd him, what might be his Pleasure? "My Visit is to you, reply'd the *Prince*; and I desire to be admitted
" without

“ out Delay. “ The *Governour* told him, that
 “ if he had any Commands for him, he
 “ might let him know them, or communi-
 “ cate his Business to him in Writing; for
 “ that he could not open the *Gates* at that
 “ Time of Night; and therefore beg’d the
 “ *King* wou’d excuse him if he did not com-
 “ ply with his Request, having receiv’d Or-
 “ ders to the contrary.

This *Prince*, after so positive a Refusal, return’d to *Moncaliery*, overwhelm’d with Consternation and Resentment. He had flatter’d himself, that the *Baron* would have made no Difficulty to admit him into the *Citadel*, considering, that he himself had given him that *Government*, and that being once enter’d the *Place*, the *Officers* of the Garrison, who were also of his own *Creation*, would undoubtedly join him in order to compel his *Son* by Force of Arms to resign the *Crown* to him, in case he would not agree to it by fair Means: But all his Designs were blasted for want of Assistance; and he then saw himself neglected by all, except the *Marchioness*, who was much afflicted, tho’ as yet she knew not the worst of his Misfortunes.

In the mean while the *Marquess del Borgo*, as soon as he had got within the Walls of *Turin*, hastened to *Court*, and desir'd to speak with the *King*. They told him, his *Majesty* was in Bed; but nevertheless, as the *Marquess* insisted upon seeing him, one of the *Ladies* of the *Bedchamber* to the *Queen* was call'd up, who acquainted the *King*, that the *Marquess del Borgo* waited in the *Anti-chamber*, and had some *Affair* of the greatest Moment to communicate to his *Majesty*. The *King* hearing this, arose; and stepping into his *Closet*, order'd the *Marquess* to be admitted. Here this *Minister* declar'd to his *Majesty*, that the *King* his *Father* was resolv'd to reassume the *Crown* the next Day; having commanded him to deliver him up his *Act* of *Abdication*, and make his *Intentions* known to his *Majesty* and his *Ministers*.

The *King*, without the least *Emotion*, immediately reply'd; "That, as he had
 "ascended the *Throne* at his *Father's* Re-
 "quest, and with the general *Approbati-*
 "on of his *Subjects*, he thought it not rea-
 "sonable to divest himself of his *Royal Au-*
 "thority, without first acquainting them
 "with it. To this End, the Time being
 short, he sent that very Instant to the *Min-*
 isters

nisters of *State*, the Archbishop of *Turin*, and the other Chief Officers of the *Crown*, with Orders to attend him forthwith upon a Matter of the highest Importance, on which the Welfare and Tranquility of the *Nation* wholly depended. The Council being assembled with the utmost Diligence, his *Majesty* acquainted them with King *Victor*'s Design, and told them ; “ That, as to himself, he was ready to resign the *Crown* “ to his *Father*, as a Proof of his *filial* Duty and intire Submission to his Will : “ But that nevertheless he would not take “ upon him to determine an Affair of so “ nice a Nature, before he had consulted their Opinions.

Here all the Members of this august *Assembly* arose, and having in a respectful Manner return'd the *King* Thanks for his Goodness towards them, the *Archbishop* began a Speech to this Purpose : “ That as “ his *Majesty* was pleas'd to appeal to them, “ and willing to hear their Opinion relating to the Subject, for which they were “ then met, he beg'd Leave to represent, “ that as King *Victor* had freely abdicated “ the *Crown* about a Year before, in Favour of his present *Majesty*, in the most “ solemn Manner, and declar'd the sustan-

" tial Reasons he had for so doing, as
 " might be seen in his *Speech* on that Oc-
 " casion, which was register'd with the *Act*
 " of *Abdication*; it was his Opinion, and
 " he was morally assur'd, the *King* his *Fa-*
 " *ther* cou'd have no reasonable Pretence
 " to reassume the *Throne*; since he cou'd
 " no wise be dissatisfy'd with *his Majesty's*
 " *Aministration*, which was so agreeable to
 " his *Subjects*, and even so convenient for
 " King *Victor* himself; having the same Re-
 " spect paid him, as tho' he were their
 " *Sovereign*, and being at the same Time
 " free from the painful Cares and Toils
 " of *Government*: That therefore as this
 " *Prince* had so suddenly retracted that sa-
 " cred *Decree*, which he himself had made,
 " and promis'd inviolably to observe; he
 " cou'd not conceive any just and lawful
 " Cause for such a Proceeding; but rather
 " fear'd it was to gratify the boundless *Va-*
 " *nity* of the *Marchioness of Spigno*, who,
 " since her Marriage with King *Victor*, had
 " often express'd a passionate Desire to be
 " declar'd *Queen*: That this being the Case,
 " as there was room enough to believe it,
 " his *Majesty* was bound in Honour and
 " Conscience not to depart with the *Crown*,
 " lest his *Subjects* shou'd become hereafter
 " a *Prey*

“ a *Prey* to the Ambition and Avarice of
 “ that *wicked Woman*.

“ That indeed he cou’d not but admire
 “ and commend the extraordinary Submis-
 “ sion, which his *Majesty* ever paid to his
 “ Father’s Will ; but that, far from being
 “ commendable on this Occasion, it might
 “ be liable to *Censure* ; in as much as it
 “ wou’d inevitably tend to the great Pre-
 “ judice of his *Majesty* and his loyal Peo-
 “ ple : That as all the Actions of a *Sove-*
 “ *reign* ought solely to be directed for the
 “ *Publick Good*, it was likewise a Duty in-
 “ cumbent on him to avoid and condemn
 “ all such as might prove hurtful and dan-
 “ gerous to it.

The whole *Council* highly approv’d this
 Prelate’s humble Remonstrances to his *Ma-*
iesty, and all unanimously declar’d they were
 of the same Opinion. They were then
 going to consider what Measures were pro-
 per to be taken next, to prevent the Evils,
 which seem’d to threaten the *State* : When
 the *King* was told, that there was an
 Officer in the Anti-chamber just come
 from the *Governour* of the *Citadel* with a
 Letter to his *Majesty*. Whereupon the *Mar-*
quess del Borgo was sent to receive the Mes-
 sage, and having order’d the Officer to wait
 in

in the next Room, he return'd into the *Council Chamber*, and the Door being shut, he presented the Letter to the *King*, who open'd it and found by the Contents, that the *Baron de St. Remy* inform'd him of King *Victor's* coming at One in the Morning to the *Porta di Soccorso*, and wou'd have enter'd the *Citadel*; but that he had refus'd to give him Admittance, &c.

This sudden News caus'd so great an Alarm in the *Council*, that it was resolv'd at once with a general Consent, immediately to seize the Person of King *Victor*, and the *Marchioness* his *Wife* for the better Security of his *Majesty's* Peace, and Safety of the *State*, which was in danger of being speedily invaded. This bold Commission was given to twenty Officers, all Men of Honour and Intrepidity, who being back'd by a Detachment of *Horse* of the Garrison of *Turin*, set out at three in the Morning, and march'd without beat of *Drum* directly to the Castle of *Moncalieri*, which they caus'd to be surrounded, whilst they proceeded to King *Victor's* Apartment, and having seiz'd that *Prince*, they convey'd him to the Castle of *Rivole*, where he was confin'd under a strong Guard. At the same Time the *Marchioness of Spigno* was apprehended and carry'd

carry'd to the Castle of *Ceva*. That very Night the *Citadel* was reinforc'd with two Regiments extraordinary, as also the Garrison of *Turin* with a considerable Number of *Men*; and by break of Day a Body of 600 *Foot* were sent to relieve the Officers and *Horse*, that guarded King *Victor* at *Rivole*, with Orders that the commanding Officers shou'd keep a strict Watch on him. For at his return from the *Citadel*, where the *Baron de St. Remy* had given him so positive a Denial, he fell into a kind of *Lethargy*, by exhausting his Spirits too much with the tormenting Thoughts of having receiv'd so bitter an Affront from that *Governour*, and meditating on Means of being reveng'd; but when he saw himself arrested by his own Officers, and forsaken by all those, who till then had express'd so great a respect and submission to him, he became furious and almost *Mad*. For which reason his Guards were forc'd to shut him up in a *Room*, having first secured the Windows with *Iron Bars*, and watch his Actions very nearly, for Fear he shou'd make away with himself, or commit some other *Mischief*.

On the same Day the *Council* gave Orders also for seizing King *Victor's* *Confessor*, his *Astrologers*,

Astrologers, * and his *Physician*, with about fifty Persons of Distinction, who were concerned in this *Plot* with the *Marchioness of Spigno*, to dethrone the present King. An Express was sent likewise to the *Governour*, the *Intendant General*, and the Count of St. George President of the *Senate of Chambery* with a Summons to appear forthwith at *Turin*, in order to receive fresh Instructions. The Count of St. George, who was Brother-in-Law to the *Marchioness of Spigno*, was suspected of being deeper than the Rest in this *Conspiracy*, and therefore was sent to the *Citadel* of *Turin* to be examined in a particular Manner. The Count de *Cumiane* Brother to that *Lady* had also a Hand in it, but obtain'd the *King's* Pardon upon making a Discovery of what his Sister had intrusted him with concerning that Affair.

On the 2d of *October* the *Council* met again, to consult whether or no it were essential to inform the *Christian Princes* of this wonderful *Catastrophe*, and being resolv'd in the Affirmative ;

* King *Victor* was us'd to keep two famous *Astrologers* at his Court, viz. *Il Cavalieri Giobbi* and *Monsieur de St. Quintin*, to whom he allow'd considerable *Pensions* : And he never wou'd attempt any Affair of great Importance without first consulting them. He had, no doubt, some very *Political* Reason for it ; as had many other *Princes* before him. See *Bayle*, in the *Continuation of his Miscellaneous Thoughts upon Comets*. Chap. 44.

tive; a kind of Manifesto was publish'd,
 and Copies of it sent to his *Majesty's* Mini-
 sters at all Foreign *Courts*, containing in Sub-
 stance; " That, the King of *Sardinia* had
 " been oblig'd to take those Measures, by
 " reason that King *Victor* his *Father* since his
 " late Indisposition, being often disorder'd
 " in his Mind, had after his return into
 " *Piemont* form'd a *Design* which wou'd
 " have prov'd very destructive to the *Publick*
 " *Tranquility*; and therefore, to prevent
 " the fatal Consequences that might ensue,
 " his *Majesty* found himself under the abso-
 " lute Necessity of keeping him in Confine-
 " ment, till he was somewhat recover-
 " ed of his *Distractions*: That he thought
 " it convenient also to remove the *Mar-*
 " *chioness of Spigno* his Wife, being well
 " assured that she was chiefly *instrumen-*
 " *tal* to her *Husband's* Disorder, by in-
 " spiring him with *violent* and *ambitious*
 " Sentiments, which might for ever en-
 " danger the *Peace* and *Liberty* of his *Sub-*
 " *jects*. But that his *Majesty*, who on all
 " Occasions had given so many evident
 " Proofs of his sincere Affection and Du-
 " ty to the *King* his *Father*, was under
 " the greatest Concern to see himself ne-

“ cessitated to redress these Grievances, by
 “ the Precaution he had taken.

The King of *France*, being inform'd in what Manner King *Victor* his Grand-Father had been confin'd in the Castle of *Rivole*, and not knowing the real Cause, propos'd at first to release him. To this Intent, he order'd an *Army* of Twenty-five Thousand *Men* to be in Readiness on the Frontiers of *Dauphiné*, whence they were to take their March through *Savoy* into *Piemont*, upon the first Notice. The King of *Sardinia*, having receiv'd Advice of these Preparations, immediately offer'd the *Emperor* all the Satisfaction he requir'd of him on Account of King *Victor*'s late Engagements, and upon these Conditions his *Imperial Majesty* oblig'd himself to supply that *Prince* with such a Number of *Forces*, as would be sufficient to maintain him on the *Throne*. The *French Monarch* being appriz'd of this Agreement, thought fit to lay aside his Enterprize; more particularly when he was acquainted with the just Motives, that had induc'd the King of *Sardinia* to send his *Father* to the Castle of *Rivole*.

This,

This, Sir, was at last King *Victor's* Fate, which indeed I cannot look upon as unfortunate, since he brought it upon himself; having at all Times practis'd the abominable *Maxim* of a *Tiberius* and a *Nero*: *It little concerns me*, was he often hear'd to say, *whether or no People hate me, so they do but fear me*. But he has felt the evil Effects of it, equally with those *Tyrants* of *Rome*, and even in a more severe Manner. For those *Monsters*, by the violent *Death* they suffer'd, escap'd the dreadful and just Resentment of their Subjects, at the Time when it only began to appear. Whereas King *Victor*, being longer-liv'd, is tormented with Thousands of *Woes* more cruel than *Death* itself. For they daily crowd in upon him, without his being able to avoid them; and hourly increase, without knowing when they will be at an End.

Thus confin'd in a Castle, beset on all Sides with *Officers* and *Soldiers*, whom no *Bribery* can corrupt, nor to whom he cannot complain of his excessive Grief, being sensible they have not the least Compassion for him: How great must be his Distress! And how much more feel-

ing, to be imprison'd by a *Son*, who had always been so dutiful to him, that he fancy'd he might for ever hold him under an absolute Subjection? A *Prince*, I say, whom he never judg'd capable of taking so *Wise* and Steady a Resolution. In what Anxiety of Mind must he constantly be, to see himself parted from the *Marchioness*, who was the only *Person*, to whom he cou'd reveal the Secrets of his Heart; and who perhaps might be treated in the Castle of *Ceva* after the same Manner as he himself, during his *Reign*, had serv'd many worthy People? † But above all, how must his Ambition torture him, when reflecting on his past *Grandeur*, he finds he has nothing remaining of it, but the dismal Thoughts of never retrieving it more?

On the other Hand, as it is now no longer in his Power to exercise his *Vengeance*

† In the Castles of *Milans* in *Savoy* and *Ceva* in *Piemont*, there are Places call'd *Oubliettes*, or private Rooms, wherein People are put to *Death* by the Floor's opening suddenly under them, which hurls them down into a Kind of a Well, where there are cutting *Engines*, that mangle them to Pieces. Executions of this Nature are generally perform'd in Arbitrary Countries upon such Persons, as for *Reasons of State*, are not admitted to take their *Trial*.

geance either on his *Son* or his *Ministers*, his inward Rage and Despair is turn'd to so great a Degree of *Madness*, that he is in the Day Time often seiz'd with *Frantick Fits*; and at Night continually disturb'd by a Series of *hideous* Dreams. In a Word he enjoys but very short Intervals of Reason, and those only serve to make him sensible, tho' too late, that he had throughout all his Actions observ'd a false and pernicious *Maxim*. He now acknowledges, I say, that it is much more advantageous to a *Sovereign* to study, how to deserve the Love of his *Subjects* by his Goodness, Justice and Liberality towards them, than to incur their *Hatred* by his Oppressions, Cruelties, and Extortion. For had King *Victor* endeavour'd to gain the real Affections of his *People*; it is most certain, that when his *Son* propos'd to return the *Crown* to him with their Consent, he wou'd not have met with the least Opposition; on the Contrary they wou'd have been overjoy'd to see him reascend the *Throne*; being more Natural to believe, that they wou'd have sooner repos'd their *Trust* in a *Sovereign*, whose Uprightness, Wisdom and Humanity

nity

nity had been known to them for so long a Time, than in a young *Prince* of whose *Genius* and *Inclinations* they had little or no Knowledge. But as he was generally hated and detested by his Subjects, tho' during his *Reign* they shew'd a feigned Love for him, the better to shun his Severe and Cruel *Treatments*, the only *Supports* of his Authority ; as soon as they saw him divested of the *Supreme Power*, they threw off the *Mask*, and openly declar'd themselves his Enemies.

From this great and memorable *Event* all *Sovereigns* and their *Ministers* may learn to govern and treat their *Subjects* like free and rational *Beings*, and not like *Brutes* and *Slaves* ; by which means they will have no Cause to repent one Day, as King *Victor* now does, of having drawn upon them the irreconcilable *Odi-um* of a whole Nation.

I must acquaint you, Sir, that one Part of what I have here communicated to you, was publish'd at *Turin* by the present King of *Sardinia's* special Command, in order to justify his Conduct towards his *Father* ; and the other, by his Consent,

sent, after the *Marchioness* of *Spigno* had confess'd her Crime, and that the *Count* of *Cumiana* her Brother, the *Count* of *Robella*, and several other Persons concern'd in the *Cabal*, had declar'd the whole, and particular Circumstances of this detestable *Conspiracy*, in Hopes of obtaining his *Majesty's* Pardon.

I wish this *Epistle* may be acceptable to you, and in some manner alleviate your undeserv'd Misfortunes; for I am sincerely,

Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

And Friend,

From DRESDEN,
Jan. 29, 1732.

De T * * *





T 25